

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1-8 and 11-15; and

cancel claims 9 and 10 without prejudice and disclaimer as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A forging method including a plurality of press steps for operations to form a formed a product, the method comprising:

~~wherein spraying a workpiece with lubricant more than once, said a workpiece already having been heated due to the machining a machine related in an earlier press step(s) operation prior to a press-step operation of forming the workpiece is conducted undergoes spraying with lubricant more than once; at least one of the spraying with lubricant operations being is conducted when the lubricant sprayed in a preceding spraying operation has been dried; and~~

~~eventually after the lubricant sprayed in the final a final spraying of said workpiece has been dried, the press-step of forming the workpiece is conducted via said press operation.~~

2. (Currently Amended) A forging method as-defined recited in Claim claim 1, wherein the workpiece is a constant-velocity universal joint outer race.

3. (Currently Amended) A forging method as-defined recited in Claim claim 1, wherein a temperature of the workpiece ranges from 150 to 250 °C due to forming heat when the workpiece is sprayed with lubricant.

4. (Currently Amended) A forging method as-defined recited in Claim claim 1, wherein the lubricant sprayed before a forging procedure is performed is a water-

dispersive lubricant containing a solid lubricant agent, a lubricative and dispersive adherent agent and a wetting and vaporizing accelerating agent, and the lubricant during the forging procedure is a solid lubricant agent.

5. (Currently Amended) A forging method as-defined recited in ~~Claim~~ claim 1, wherein the formed product is cup-shaped.

6. (Currently Amended) A forging method as-defined recited in ~~Claim~~ claim 1, wherein the formed product is shaft-shaped.

7. (Currently Amended) A forging apparatus, comprising:

an extruding apparatus that comprises a plurality of press stages, wherein a workpiece is successively transferred to ~~a series~~ the plurality of press stages of the extruding apparatus; and

a conveying unit for successively transferring the workpiece is provided comprises with a nozzle plurality of nozzles for spraying the workpiece with lubricant; and, wherein the workpiece and the nozzle plurality of nozzles are located in fixed relative positions with respect to each other in spraying the workpiece with the lubricant, and wherein lubricant is sprayed from the plurality of nozzles in different directions, and the nozzles spray the lubricant in a sequential fashion, and after the lubricant sprayed from the plurality of nozzles has been dried, more lubricant is again sprayed from the nozzles or after the lubricant sprayed from one of the nozzles has been dried, more lubricant is again sprayed from another of the nozzles.

8. (Currently Amended) A forging apparatus as-defined recited in ~~Claim~~ claim

7, wherein the spraying with lubricant is conducted intermittently.

9-10 (cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) A forging apparatus as-defined recited in Claim claim 7, wherein the workpiece is a constant-velocity universal joint outer race.

12. (Currently Amended) A forging apparatus as-defined recited in Claim claim 7, wherein a temperature of the workpiece ranges from 150 to 250 °C due to forming heat when the workpiece is sprayed with lubricant.

13. (Currently Amended) A forging apparatus as-defined recited in Claim claim 7, wherein the lubricant sprayed before a forging procedure is performed is a water-dispersive lubricant containing a solid lubricant agent, a lubricative and dispersive adherent agent, and a wetting and vaporizing accelerating agent, and the lubricant during the forging procedure is a solid lubricant agent.

14. (Currently Amended) A forging apparatus as-defined recited in Claim claim 7, wherein the formed product is cup-shaped.

15. (Currently Amended) A forging apparatus as-defined recited in Claim claim 7, wherein the formed product is shaft-shaped.